



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 20th, 2023 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

* = *Approval Item*

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Note Taker(s) | Tari Aanonsen | |
| Members Present | | |
| | Chris Belden | Duluth Transit Authority |
| | Chris Carlson | City of Superior – Public Works |
| | Jim Foldesi | St Louis County |
| | Krysten Saatela Foster | MnDOT Dist 1 |
| | James Gittemeier | City of Duluth |
| | Jason Jackman | Douglas County |
| | Todd Janigo | City of Superior – Public Works |
| | Chris Lee | City of Duluth |
| | Cari Pedersen | City of Duluth |
| | Dena Ryan | WisDOT |
| | Cindy Voigt | City of Duluth Engineering |
| | Skip Williams | Active Transportation |
| Members Absent | | * Excused Absence |
| | Maren Webb* | MnDOT Dist 1 |
| | Tom Werner* | Duluth Airport Authority |
| | Kate Ferguson* | Duluth Seaway Port Authority |
| | John Mulder | City of Hermantown |
| | Jess Rich | City of Proctor |
| | Karl Schuettler* | Northspan Group |
| | vacant | Mobility Challenged Community |
| Others Present | | |
| | Tari Aanonsen | MIC Admin Asst |
| | Jeff Abboud | WisDOT |
| | Karl Buck | FHWA |
| | Sara Husen | WisDOT |
| | Sheldon Johnson | MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC |
| | Eli Jurewicz | MIC Intern |
| | Prescott Morrill | MIC Planner |
| | John Ramos | Duluth Monitor |
| | Bobbie Retzlaff | FHWA |
| | Ricky Sarran | MIC-GIS Specialist |
| | Erika Shepard | MnDOT |
| | Bob Sullivan | Marad |
| | Voni Vegar | MnDOT |
| | | |



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Sheldon Johnson, MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. A "roll call" attendance was taken. When completed, Sheldon asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

• Meeting Summary of 5.16.23

Sheldon then asked if there were any questions or changes to the May meeting summary.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing a motion by Jim Foldessi and James Gittemeier to approve the 5.16.23 meeting summary.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Sheldon Johnson called for a moment of silence for the passing of a former employee of the Metropolitan Interstate Council, Senior Planner, Kris Liljeblad.

3. DRAFT 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP – RELEASE FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON JULY 1, 2023

Prescott Morrill requested that the Draft 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 1, 2023, be recommended to the Policy Board for approval. Jim Foldessi asked if the draft was being reviewed by agencies in which Prescott stated it had been released to oversight agencies today. Any comments will be incorporated into the TIP before July 1, 2023.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing a motion by James Gittemeier and Skip Williams to recommend the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP – Release for 30-Day Comment Period on July 1, 2023.

4. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM PROJECT DISCUSSION

Sheldon Johnson began by sharing that the 2024-25 Unified Transportation Work Program update is underway. A solicitation is open for new projects to be added. Discretionary funds of an estimated \$50K-\$75K are available for an additional short-range project in the 2024 budget. The Draft UTWP will be presented at the TAC and MIC meetings in August and will include a tentative work program and budget for 2025. The final document will be presented to the MIC Policy Board in September for adoption, then forwarded on to MnDOT, WisDOT, FHWA and FTA for final approvals.



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5. BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) UPDATE

Prescott Morrill presented on the happenings at the recent BPAC meeting held on May 4, 2023. Members of the BPAC raised concerns that, of the three plans being presented on the Blatnik Bridge project, two of them do not include the use of multi-modal transportation modes. The group feels that the resolution passed by the MIC back in August of 2021, does sufficiently reflect the MIC's support for a multi-modal plan. Prescott went on to discuss how the BPAC creates an annual report to identify its objectives and list the ongoing work of the group. The Ped Subcommittee met on June 1st and held a discussion regarding the Snow Removal Task Force (SRTF). The group is entertaining plans for drafting a Resolution of Support for a regional coordination of snow removal. This would not be prescriptive, but rather goal setting, in support of the efforts of regional agencies in their snow removal efforts.

Skip Williams voiced concern for the fact that two of the plans headed to the State for the replacement of the Blatnik Bridge do not contain multi-modal pieces. James Gittemeier asked if the Resolution of Support for regional snow removal efforts being presented was similar to a past parking resolution. Skip Williams commented that all modes are affected by the issue of snow removal. Jim Foldessi raised the issue of operational limitations on snow removal due to fiscal constraints and staff resources.

6. LONG RANGE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) 2050 UPDATE

Rondi Watson presented to the TAC on the kickoff to the Metropolitan Interstate Council's Long Range MTP 2050. The MTP includes a federal requirement for a minimum of a 20-year planning horizon and must be updated every 5 years. The 2050 MTP requires approval from the MIC Policy Board by October of 2024. The MIC's next steps include two rounds of jurisdictional consultations to zero in on transportation projects in the Duluth/Superior Metropolitan Area, as well as stakeholder engagement efforts. The plan will focus on making equitable and sustainable choices for all modes of transportation, to better serve all people of the region. There will be ongoing updates on the process, and requests for input, to both the TAC and MIC.

Bobbie Retzlaff clarified for the group that the Long Range MTP does not need to be approved by the State or Federal government, but they must be given copies of the board-approved plan.

7. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2023 PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT – SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

Sheldon updated the TAC about the potential movement of the MIC's Safety Action Plan moving to the long-range plan update and being consultant led, using 2023 funds. This may require an additional meeting of the MIC Policy Board in mid-July to approve the change.

James Gittemeier asked if the focus was still on safety. Jim Foldessi asked about the possibility of the MIC applying for the Safe Streets for All grant on behalf of the entire planning area. James Gittemeier stated that he and a few others were meeting the next day to discuss the possibilities of this grant through the City of Duluth. Bobbie Retzlaff shared the link to the grant application and said the deadline is July 10th.



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- *ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION #11 TO THE 2023/26 DULUTH AREA TIP*

Prescott Morrill described that the purpose of Admin Mod #11 was to move transit funding from one single fiscal year to a two-year reporting period.

8. ROUND TABLE

- **JAMES GITTEMEIER - NLX RAIL PROJECT**

James asked if there is an application process for the 80% matching funds now that the State has approved their 20%. Bobbie Retzlaff said she isn't sure, as it isn't an FWHA fund, but she will pass along the question to Bryan Anderson at MnDOT.

- **CHRIS BELDON - NLX RAIL PROJECT**

Chris asked if the project required funding from Wisconsin. Jeff Abboud stated that he believed it would all be covered by MnDOT or NLX.

- **SKIP WILLIAMS - NLX RAIL PROJECT**

Skip mentioned the importance of looking at 5th Avenue West with a broad view of the multi-modal activity around the train center in Duluth, as well as in Superior, WI.

- **RONDI WATSON- DULUTH AREA I-35 PROJECT**

Rondi stated that the open house held in early June for the I-35 project had the largest turnout and highest level of public interest that she has seen in her 20 years with the MIC. She stressed that we need to make it clear to the public that this project is not the same plan as the Duluth Waterfront Collective's plan. While theirs is a 1-mile stretch of I-35 from approximately 5th Avenue West to Lake Avenue, ours is a 14 mile stretch, from County Road 61 in Midway Township to 26th Avenue East in Duluth. The I-35 Project will be taking an additional look at Thompson Hill.

9. ADJOURN: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Deputy Director Sheldon Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.